

C. Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claims 2 and 4-7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 8-10 and 14 and add new claim 15 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An optical material satisfying a condition that

$n_d > -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70$  and  $\theta_{g,F} \leq -2 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 0.59$  where  $n_d$  is a refractive index at d-line,  $v_d$  is an Abbe number at the d-line and  $\theta_{g,F}$  is a second order dispersion at d-line, and said Abbe number ( $v_d$ ) is 22.7 or less.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The optical material according to claim 1, wherein the optical material comprises a polymer and an inorganic nanoparticle material having a second order dispersion ( $\theta_{g,F}$ ) value of 0.45 or less.

4-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An optical element comprising an optical material according to claim 1, wherein said optical element is formed in a desired shape by a curing reaction.

9. (Currently Amended) The optical element according to claim 8 in which one surface thereof is a diffracting surface having a diffractive shape.

10. (Currently Amended) The optical element according to claim 8 in which one surface thereof is a refracting surface having a refractive shape.

11. (Original) An optical system comprising an optical element according to claim 8 and another optical element arranged in one and the same optical path.

12. (Original) The optical system according to claim 11, wherein the system images an object.

13. (Original) The optical system according to claim 11, wherein the system projects light onto an object.

14. (Currently Amended) A laminated diffractive optical element comprising:

a first diffractive optical element having a surface formed into a diffractive shape; and

a second diffractive optical element having a surface formed into a diffractive shape,

wherein the first diffractive optical element is made of an optical material that satisfies a condition that  $n_d > -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70$  and  $\theta_{g,F} \leq -2 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 0.59$  where  $n_d$  is a refractive index at d-line,  $v_d$  is an Abbe number at the d-line, and  $\theta_{g,F}$  is a second order dispersion at d-line;

the second diffractive optical element has [[have]] an Abbe number larger than that of the first diffractive optical element; and

the diffracting surface of the first optical element and the diffracting surface of the second optical element are arranged in an opposite position, and said Abbe number ( $v_d$ ) is 22.7 or less.

15. (New) The optical material according to claim 3, wherein the polymer is polystyrene and the inorganic nanoparticle material is a transparent nanoparticle material.

16. (New) The optical material according to claim 15, wherein a size of the transparent nanoparticle material is from 2 to 50 nm.

17. (New) The optical material according to claim 16, wherein the transparent nanoparticle material is an ITO nanoparticle material.